

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed February 11, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 20 is added. Claims 1-20 are pending, the independent claims remaining 1, 7 and 14. Claims 1, 3, 7 and 14 are amended. All of the claim amendments find support in FIG. 2 and accompanying text in the specification. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 7-10 and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No.6,614,951 to Lin.

Lin relates to an obstruction, of one refractive index, in an input light distribution component of another refractive index.

However, the component and obstruction do not have respective ends that coincide and opposite ends that couple an input waveguide to a grating array.

Claim 1, as amended, recite, ". . . said first layer being disposed for coupling the input waveguide to said second layer, said second layer being disposed for coupling said first layer to the grating array. . ."

Lin fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of the invention.

Claim 14, as amended, recites, ". . . both layers having respective first and second ends, the first end of the first layer being disposed to join said one end of the

input waveguide, the second end of the first layer being disposed to join the first end of the second layer . . . a grating array disposed to join the second end of the second layer. .
."

Lin fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of the invention.

Likewise, the component and obstruction are not arranged in series between the input waveguide and a grating array so as to collectively couple the latter two.

Claim 7, as amended, recites, ". . . a first layer and a second layer that are disposed in series between the input waveguide and the grating array so that the layers collectively couple the input waveguide to the grating array. . ."

Lin fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of the invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under this ground are respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 13 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Lin.

As set forth above, none of claims 1, 7 and 14 as amended would have been obvious in view of Lin. Claims 6, 13 and 19 depend from the respective base claim, and are deemed to distinguish patentably over Lazaro for at least the same reason(s) set forth above with regard to the base claims.

Claims 4, 11 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Lin in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,812,012 to Terada et al. ("Terada").

Terada is cited for a specific refractive index, but cannot make up for the above-noted shortcoming(s) of the primary reference.

Claims 5, 12 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Lin in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0021567 to Yoneda.

Yoneda is likewise cited for a specific refractive index, but cannot make up for the deficiencies in Lin.

As to the other rejected claims, each depends from a respective base claim, and is deemed to distinguish patentably over the applied reference(s) for at least the same reason(s) cited above with respect to the base claim. Moreover, each sets forth an additional aspect and consequently warrants consideration of its further merits. For example, claim 3 recites, ". . . the second layer is interposed between the first layer and the grating array. . ." The Office Action offers the Lin obstruction 26 as the "second layer" of the present invention, and offers "part of 14" in Lin as the "first layer" of the present invention. FIG. 1A shows the elements 14, 26, which begs the question of what the Office Action means by "part of 14." For example, referring to FIG. 2B, it is seen that light distribution component 14 integrally surrounds the obstruction(s) 26. It is accordingly unclear by what reasoning it could be said that Lin discloses ". . . the second

layer is interposed between the first layer and the grating array. . ."

More generally, it is notable that the obstruction 26 of Lin provides the feature of reflecting or diffracting an inputted optical signal. The second layer of the present invention provides the feature of compensating a wavelength change which occurred according to a temperature change of the second layer. That is, the second layer of the present invention does not provide the feature of reflecting or diffracting the inputted optical signal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/625,161

Docket No. 5000-1-414

In the event that any additional fee is required to continue the prosecution of this Application as requested, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 502-470. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Application, it is respectfully requested that the Applicants' attorney of record be contacted at the below-noted telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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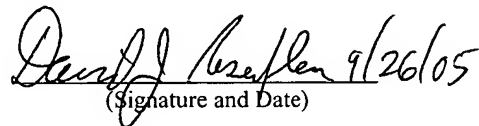
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